## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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STATE WILDLIFE DIRECTORS ASKED TO HELP SAVE RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Heads of all state wildlife departments have been asked to help with a nationwide program for protecting rare and endangered species of wildlife, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall said today.

He said a letter has been sent by John Gottschalk, director of Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, to fish and game directors in each state asking for a study that would help these species.

Director Gottschalk particularly asked for a review of state laws and regulations concerning animals that are in difficulty. He noted that species historically classed as "varmints," including hawks and owls, have no legal protection at all in some areas. As a result, some species face extinction.

Worldwide concern for predatory birds and some of the larger carnivores, such as wolves and mountain lions, was pointed out by Director Gottschalk. He noted that species outside the scope of Federal regulations can only be protected by the states.

Director Gottschalk also said that appropriate coordinated actions by states and nations are vital to any practical protection of endangered species. He expressed confidence that state wildlife agencies will respond favorably to the appeal on behalf of threatened wildlife.

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